

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARAE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

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P R 311445Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3722

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PE, US

SUBJECT: VELASCO REPEATS ALLEGATIONS THAT GOP EXPELLED U.S. DIPLOMATS

REF: LIMA 0556 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE JANUARY 29 TOWARDS END OF
PRESIDENT VELASCO'S MARATHON PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. Q: " YOU STATED THAT TWO OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
LEFT THE COUNTRY BECAUSE THEY WERE SUSPECTED OF BELONGING TO THE
CIA. . .A MAGAZINE (CARETAS) HAS ATTEMPTED TO DENY YOUR
STATEMENTS. IT HAS SAID THAT ONE OF THE OFFICIALS RETURNED
(AN ALLUSION TO AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA'S VISIT TO PERU DURING 1974)
AND THAT GENERAL MONTAGNE OFFERED THEM A BANQUET ALTHOUGH
GENERAL MONTAGNE HAS DENIED THIS. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS
MAGAZINE'S OPINION?"

3. A: AFTER DESCRIBING CARETAS AS "THE SEWER OF THE OLD SYSTEM,"
VELASCO STATE "THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT FORCED THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY TO REMOVE WITHIN A FIXED TIME LIMIT THE NUMBER
TWO MAN IN THE EMBASSY, WHO WAS SIRACUSA, AND ANOTHER MAN--
SOMEONE NAMED ORTIZ... AND THIS WAS TO BE

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DONE QUIETLY IN ORDER TO AVOID RAISING A STIR BECAUSE

WE WERE QUARRELING SO MUCH WITH THE U.S. AND INTERNALLY THE REVOLUTION HAD A SERIES OF PROBLEMS. WE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS BETTER NOT TO PUBLISH THIS NEWS IN ORDER TO AVOID AGGRAVATING FURTHER THE PROBLEMS. AND IT WAS DONE, THESE MEN LEFT HERE. IT TURNS OUT THAT I READ SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT MONTAGNE HAD GIVEN A BANQUET TO SIRACUSA BUT HAPPILY MONTAGNE HAS DENIED THIS. BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE LAST ISSUE (OF THE MAGAZINE) SAID THAT IT WASN'T MONTAGNE BUT WAS AMBASSADOR DEUSTUA, WHO AT THE TIME WAS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. I HAVE JUST LEARNED THIS. NATURALLY, I AM GOING TO INVESTIGATE THIS. I AM GOING TO SEE IF IT IS TRUE. IF I HAD KNOWN IT AT THE TIME, WE WOULD HAVE TOSSED THIS MAN OUT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, FOR WHEN THE GOVERNMENT WAS DECIDING TO KICK OUT THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS BECAUSE THEY WERE ANTI-PERUVIAN AND UNDERSIRABLE, THERE WAS NO RIGHT FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO BE GIVING A BANQUET, WHICH AMOUNTED TO AN AFFRONT. IT IS STRANGE THAT OTHER PEOPLE DIDN'T KNOW OF IT. IT IS A RARITY. IT HAS BEEN HIDDEN.; IT IS A CRIME. I HAVE JUST LEARNED BUT I AM GOING TO HAVE THIS INVESTIGATED AND IF IT IS TRUE, THIS MAN IS GOING TO BE DISMISSED
- I MEAN GENTLEMAN,
BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW YET WHETHER IT IS TRUE. CURRENTLY HE IS AN AMBASSADOR, I DON'T KNOW WHERE, SOMEWHERE UP NORTH."

4. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR DEUSTUA IS PRESENTLY PERU'S AMBASSADOR TO CANADA. VELASCO'S FREE-WHEELING REMARKS COME FROM A TAPE MADE AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE. THEY WERE DELETED FROM THE OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT RELEASED BY THE PRESIDENCY AND PUBLISHED IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS. MANY OF VELASCO'S OTHER EXTRAORDINARY REMARKS AFFECTING PERUVIAN FOREIGN POLICY WERE ALSO CENSORED. FOR EXAMPLE, VELASCO TOLD A SOVIET CORRESPONDENT THAT THE PRC WOULD COME TO RULE THE WORLD AND THAT THE CHINESE WOULD GOBBLE UP THE RUSSIANS LIKE ANTICUCHOS (SHISH KABOBS). VELASCO'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE USSR WILL BE SENT BY SEPTTEL.
DEAN

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